of the oil the tinning in 15 kg. tins has been taken up. State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been specially requested to expedite the lifting of palmolein.

Fair Price Shops in the country

4256. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present total number of Fair Price Shops in the country as on 31st March, 1994, State-wise ; and

(b) what percentage of total population of the country is covered by these shops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Details showing the number of Fair Price Shops and the percentage of population covered by Public Distribution System (PDS), as per reports received from States/Union Territories are given in the enclosed statement. The latest information available pertains to 1-1-1993.

Statement

Details regarding number of Fair Price Shops and the percentage of the population covered by P D S

Sl. No.	State/UTs.	Total No. of PDS outlets as on 1-1-93	Percentage of population covered by PDS system
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37521	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	738	89.6
3.	Assam	27259	100
4.	Bihar	45191	100
5.	Goa	572	100
6.	Gujarat	12018	100
7.	Haryana	7414	100
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3386	100
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2652	79.76
10.	Karnataka	18479	100
11.	Kerala	13157	96.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22117	100
13.	Maharashtra	39341	100
14.	Manipur	1828	100
15.	Meghalaya	3643	100
16.	Mizoram	904	100
17.	Nagaland	225	1.47
18.	Orissa	22004	90.1
19.	Punjab	10902	100
20.	Rajasthan	15962	100
21.	Sikkim	N.A.	N.A.
22.	Tamil Nadu	21985	100
23.	Tripura	1290	100
24.	Uttar Pradesh	73766	100
25.	West Bengal	20277	100
26.	A & N Islands	351	100
27.	Chandigarh.	316	100
28.	D & N Haveli	63	92.75
29.	Daman & Diu	57	100
30.	Delhi	3560	100
31.	Lakshadweep	32	100
32.	Pondicherry	3058	100

Supply of foodgrains into tribal areas

4257. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of foodgrains under the PDS are not reaching the remote tribal areas of the country ;

(b) what steps are being taken to see that proper supply of foodgrains are made to the tribal areas ; and

(c) whether every tribal family in the country is getting at least 20 kg. of foodgrains as decided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Central Government has not received any report regarding foodgrains not being supplied to remote, far-flung, tribal areas in any State/Union Territory. Central Government makes bulk allocations to States/UTs for distribution through the Public Distribution System. Operational matters including lifting of foodgrains, transportation arrangements, distribution of foodgrains etc. are matters that fall under the

administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to provide, a minimum of 20 kg. of foodgrains per month per family to the population living in the Blocks identified under RPDS. While this quantity is a desired target, the actual offtake by each tribal household would depend on a number of factors such as purchasing power of the family, open market availability and prices of foodgrains including coarse grains and the family's own production for consumption.

Fall in price of coconut oil

4258. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for the sharp up trend of prices of edible oils other than coconut oil during 1993-94 ;

(b) what are the reasons for the fall in price of coconut oil ; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to purchase coconut oil in order to protect the interests of coconut growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Some of the reasons for the sharp up trend in the prices of edible oils other than coconut oil during 1993-94 are as follows :—

(i) delayed arrival of rabi crops ;

(ii) less carry over stock of edible oils ;

(iii) reported hoarding by farmers and oilseed growers' co-operatives to get lucrative prices ; and

(iv) increase in demand for edible oils.

(b) The reasons attributed to fall in prices of coconut oil are increased production of coconut oil and various measures taken by Coconut Development Board like expansion of area under coconut by providing subsidy for new planting in various States viz. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman Nicobar Islands ; production and distribution of hybrid seedlings.

(c) No, Sir.

Consumer Welfare Fund

4259. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a consumer welfare fund ;

(b) if so, what is the total consumer funds so far distributed among the States ;

(c) what was the main aim and objectives of this fund ;

(d) whether various organisations have also been asked to apply for the fund ;

(e) if so, what are the conditions that are being imposed in utilising the funds ;

(f) whether the objectives of the fund for which this was set up has been achieved ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of assistance being provided so far (State-wise) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nil—Applications have been invited upto 31-5-1994.

(c) The overall objectives of the Consumer Welfare Fund is to promote and protect the welfare of consumers and to strengthen the voluntary consumer movement particularly in the rural areas.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. According to the Consumer Welfare Fund Rules, various organisations/agencies which are engaged in the consumer welfare activities for a period of three years and are registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or under any other law for the time being in force,